



READY TO ACHIEVE MENTORING PROGRAM

Career-Focused Mentoring for All Youth

Program Description

The Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP)[™] is a high-tech, career-focused mentoring program for youth involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. Funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and led by the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), RAMP[™] is being implemented across the country by state and local organizations with expertise in mentoring, youth development, juvenile justice, and disability. The RAMP[™] model uses a combination of group, peer, and one-on-one mentoring to promote the successful transition of RAMP[™] youth to employment, continued learning opportunities, and independent living.

Youth participate in weekly career preparation-focused group meetings, including peer-supported goal setting and exploration of careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Each youth meets regularly one-on-one with a mentor to develop and implement an Individualized Mentoring Plan (IMP). Mentors are caring adults recruited from the community, schools, employers, and partner organizations. Youths' families, teachers, and support network are engaged in career fairs, college visits, and extended learning activities. At the end of the program, each group of youth works with an industry advisor to complete a high-tech project. While in RAMP[™], youth have the opportunity to assess and explore their own career interests; develop a plan and set goals for their transition; create a resource map of their community's high-tech industries; gain workplace soft skills; build resume-writing and interviewing skills; interact with employers and experience a variety of work settings; give and receive peer support; take advantage of group and personal leadership opportunities; design and build a high-tech-related team project, and most importantly... have fun!

RAMP[™] Sites

RAMP[™] Multi-State Grant – for youth with disabilities

- Chemung County Children's Integrated Services (*Chemung County, NY*)
- Ability Connection Colorado (*Denver Metro Area, CO*)
- Easter Seals Greater Houston (*Houston Metro Area, TX*)
- Humanim, Inc. (*Baltimore, MD*)
- Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida (*Clay and Duval Counties, FL*)
- LSUHSC – Human Development Center (*New Orleans, LA*)
- Peckham, Inc. (*Lansing, MI*)
- Regional Center for Independent Living (*Wayne County, NY*)
- YOUTH POWER!/Families Together in Albany County (*Albany County, NY*)
- Youth Services, Inc (*Wyndham County, VT*)

RAMP[™]-DC Second Chance Act Mentoring Grant – for youth ex-offenders

- District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (*Washington, DC*)

For more information & updates, visit: <http://ramp.iel.org>

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Foundations of RAMP™

RAMP™ utilizes the *Guideposts for Success* transition framework and *Paving the Way to Work: A Guide to Career-Focused Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities* as a foundation for this mentoring model. In addition, RAMP™ implements strategies for employer engagement, internships, and STEM career exploration from the *High School/High Tech Program Guide: A Comprehensive Transition Program Promoting Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for Youth with Disabilities*, as well as strategies for promoting the transition of youth with disabilities within the juvenile justice system from *Making the Right Turn: A Guide About Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Corrections System*. All of these publications were created by the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth and are available at www.ncwd-youth.info. In addition, the Individualized Mentoring Plan developed by youth and their mentors is based on *Plotting the Course for Success: An Individualized Mentoring Plan for Youth with Disabilities*, created by the National Consortium on Leadership and Disability for Youth and available at www.nclld-youth.info.

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About the Institute for Educational Leadership



Founded in 1964, the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) builds the capacity of individuals in education and related fields to work together across policies, programs and sectors in support of better results for all children and youth from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education and work. IEL helps build the capacity to lead, identifies and shares promising practices, and translates its own and others' research into suggestions for policy and practice improvement and technical assistance. Our work spans the key policy and practice environments that have an impact on children and youth, and is rooted in state and local programs and networks. IEL provides direct services in and to 41 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but maintains five program-specific web sites (www.iel.org) to ensure that its work and resources are available to broad audiences of stakeholders across the country. IEL is at the heart of action and learning networks, and is known for organizational capacities anchored in research and for producing best or promising practices. IEL implements its agenda by working with and through impartial, dynamic, nationwide networks of people and organizations. The Coalition for Community Schools and the Education Policy Fellowship Program are two of the initiatives housed at IEL.

About the Center for Workforce Development

In recognition of the need for substantial improvements in workforce preparation systems in this country, IEL established the Center for Workforce Development in 1991. CWD focuses on helping leaders in both the public and private sectors build bridges that connect individuals with both learning institutions and the workplace. The focus is on the ties that link the worker, the school or training institutions, and the workplace together -- ties that promote the types of learning organizations needed to increase the overall productivity of the nation's workforce. CWD's operational approach is collaboration with other organizations because no one organization has the capacity to have the full range of knowledge and expertise necessary to address these issues. Building bridges requires networking and knowledge of how different stakeholders and systems interact with one another. CWD is dedicated to helping build those bridges to create a more coherent workforce development system in the United States.